

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 4, 2003 (Paper No. 8). Claims 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 and 9 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,831,644 (Kato), and Claims 6 to 8 and 12 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kato. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested, for at least the following reasons.

According to the invention set out in amended independent Claim 1, first and second driving sources are arranged for generating driving forces for a cap member and a suction source, respectively. The cap member is driven between a first position closely contacting a nozzle surface of an ink jet recording head and a second position apart from the nozzle surface. An engaging portion is engageable with and disengageable from the driving force of the second driving source. According to one aspect of the invention, the engaging portion transmits the driving force of the second driving source to the suction source when the cap member is at the first position, and does not transmit the driving force of the second driving source to the suction source when the cap member is at the second position.

By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, the transmission and non-transmission of the driving force to the suction source may be switched in dependence on the position of the cap member.

Kato describes an ink jet recording apparatus in which a conveying device and a head recovery device are driven by a common drive source, namely, motor 33. According to

Kato, suction pump 75 is indirectly driven by motor 33 (see column 6, lines 30 to 38); and suction cap 73 is indirectly driven also by motor 33, between first and second positions (see column 8, lines 13 to 25). Accordingly, since Kato uses exactly the same driving source for driving his cap member and his suction pump, Kato has no need for an engaging portion that is engageable with and disengageable from the driving force of a second driving source, for the reason that Kato has no such second driving source. As a consequence, Applicants respectfully submit that Kato does not disclose or suggest an engaging portion, engageable with and disengageable from a driving force of a second driving source, for transmitting the driving force of the second driving source to a suction source when a cap member is at a first position, and not transmitting the driving force when the cap member is at a second position.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein define subject matter neither anticipated by nor obvious from the disclosure of Kato, and allowance of the claims herein is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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